

STEAM ROLLER" CONVENTION OF 1912 331

panions in dispute could be relied on to vote for frim, the deprivation was easily borne. All " regular/ ' all "in ac- cordance with precedent " in conventions since they were first established ! The operators of the Steam Roller them- selves had created the precedent in accordance with which they were operating it, and knowing their business "thor- oughly, they had made no mistakes. Again it may be said, they could have cited equally good precedent for an oppo- site course.

With the 74 contested delegates firmly in their seats, the remaining work of the convention went on with only slight and occasional friction. Nothing jarred the progress of the Steam Roller. Occasionally a delegate, not entirely reconciled to its crushing progress, made the point of order that it was "exceeding the speed limit," but so general had recognition of its control of the proceedings become that the chairman was able to look upon such protest as an uncommonly good joke, and join in the general laugh.

Only once was the beaten path of "regularity" departed from, and the responsible person in the case was Mr. Root, who had been elected permanent as well as temporary chairman. During the roll-call for the nomination of can- didates for the presidency, the vote of Massachusetts was being polled. An account of what occurred was published by Professor Albert Bushnell Hart, of Harvard University, who was a member of the delegation, and from this the following quotation is made :

"The first delegate-at-large replied to Ms name: * Present

and not voting.' "Whereupon the Honorable Elihu Root, president of the convention, called the Taft alternate. Forthwith Frederick Fosdick, chairman of 'the Roosevelt Eighteen/ stepped out into the aisle, raising his hand to command attention, and said: ^{fi} Massachusetts is a law-abiding State, and will not stand for such a steal ^y Thereupon, the honored president of the convention advanced to the edge of the platform and said: *If the delegates from Massachusetts will not do their duty, we will call upon those who will do it.' To which Mr. Fosdick manfully re-